



News Release

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New deputy secretary appointed at Department of Health

OLYMPIA — Secretary of Health Mary Selecky has appointed Gregg Grunenfelder as deputy secretary of the Department of Health. He'll take over this new role on Nov. 16. Grunenfelder has been the assistant secretary for the agency's Division of Environmental Health since 2006.

In his new role, Grunenfelder serves as the chief operating officer of the department, managing day-to-day operations for the agency. He'll also fill in for the secretary when she's unavailable.

"Gregg has a wealth of experience in public health," said Secretary of Health Mary Selecky. "I'm confident that experience and his strong leadership skills will be tremendous assets for us, especially during these tough times."

Prior to coming to the department in 1997, he worked for nearly 20 years in local health departments in Washington — Lewis County, Thurston County, and Tacoma-Pierce County. His first job at the state Department of Health was the director of the Office of Drinking Water.

Grunenfelder received the Governor's Distinguished Manager Award in 2003. He has a bachelor's degree in bacteriology and public health from Washington State University, and a master's in public health from University of Minnesota. He also served in the Peace Corps as a public health educator.

Grunenfelder serves in a leadership role on several state committees including the state Human Health and Security Climate Change Technical Advisory Group.

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